## Evaluation Form for Harmonization of Standards Study Tour August 11-27, 2000

#### **Study Tour Goals:**

## Did the 2-week study tour meet your overall expectations? Yes 11 No 1 If not, why not?

- -Hands on study tour would have been more beneficial e.g. practical inspection, grading, etc.
- -Since the expectations were not preset they could not be met however the program was beneficial

### What was the highlight of the study tour?

- -Harmonization of standards for trade facilitation by all stakeholders
- -Trade facilitation
- -Seeing actual practical inspection and procedures operation in field visits at Kansas and Houston
- -Harmonization of standards to facilitate regional trade and trade with USA especially on grains (maize/wheat)
- -AIB and per-shipment inspection and grading of grains
- -The exposure to the harmonization standards with the grain sector of USDA in America and their influence to the industry
- -Promoting trade through harmonization of standards and improvements of transport management
- -The focus on trade by everyone and every institution or organization met or visited in the course of the study tour (uniform)
- -The coordination that exists between all Government bodies toward trade facilitating trade
- -Standards/Grading of grains mainly for export which was very well covered both theoretically and practically
- -Institutional collaboration through memorandum of understanding was excellent
- -Visit to Kansas
- -Harmonized standards of grain for export purposes

#### List at least 3 new ideas gained from this visit that can utilize in your work?

- -1) new precision testing equipment for inspection facilitation grain research; 2) harmony in quality, SPS, and trade in the industry; 3)AIB process inspection/assessment for food safety availability in Africa region
- -1) aspects of memorandum of understanding bi service delivery agencies; 2) none chemical control of pests in export grain and grain handling installations; 3) how the stakeholder can work together in harmony
- -1)efficient grain inspection activities at FGIS and Port; 2) Use of quick result equipment in grains; 3) good working reliant and interpretative of covenant regulations between private sector and public; 4) also good interpretative and acceptance of research findings into agriculture sector (farmers need)
- -1) holistic and participatory involvement of various stakeholders is to promote and facilitate trade; 2) sampling and inspections procedures and interpretations of the results; 3) the essence of speedy processing of tests
- -1) pre-inspection of grain which shows that there is no need for private inspections like SAS;
- 2) AIB -procedure; 3) wheat flour improvements

- -1) how to coordinate related activities of operation; 2) respect and accept specialization at whatever level; 3) importance of dissemination of information with speed to users
- -1) importance of assistance to the industry in order to assist them to meet regulatory requirements; 2) importance of training in the day to day activities of the relevant organizations; 3) delegation of powers to field officers
- -1) need to train and train every staff on proper sampling and testing methods; 2) raising of national standards for grain and grain products to level of USA standards -do the same at the EA level; 3) to introduce and emphasis the procedure for approval and collaboration of testing equipment in the country
- -1) initiate awareness of the need to orient work done by staff at the Bureau of Standards towards facilitating trade change their attitude; 2) make available updated documents to all standards implementers- I have started working on writing import inspection procedures after the GIPSA talk on sampling inspections; 3) work together with the private sector in the implementation of the harmonized EA standards
- -1) importance of information generation flow and sharing/exchange; 2) proper documentation of all important information and dissemination; 3) efficiency at work
- -1) efficiency improved with training and appropriate equipment; 2) short term specialized training for technical staff; 3) benefits are high with information exchange with other stakeholders locally and internationally
- -1) use of technology and research in addressing /solving problems in agricultural and marketing industry; 2) harmonization and implementation of standards to facilitate trade; 3) availability of information on trade issues
- -no response

#### **Administrative:**

Were the housing accommodations acceptable? Yes 12 No

Were the travel arrangements in U.S. satisfactory? Yes 8 No 3

- -Flights were delayed to much
- -No response
- -except for Delta Airlines

Were overall logistics efficient? Yes 12 No
Was the overall study tour well organized? Yes 12 No
If not, please provide comments.

#### **On-Site Visits:**

### What was the value of the On-Site Visits?

- -Practical exposure to quality controls/SPS efficiency in assisting trade
- -"Seeing is believing" information
- -It was quite good to have on site visits because a lot of actual experience, seeing the way things are done gave us al lot of information
- -Exposure to the various procedures and protocols in the facilitation of trade

- -Visual demonstration of how things are done went far in clarifying issues
- -To enable us to be exposed to the processes and implementation stages
- -Very effective in providing real life experience to the participants
- -Eye opener-getting to be aware of the current state of the art in the grain industry i.e. farm research thru to the plate
- -I got to understand grading of grains and various methods used practically
- -Practical experience (i.e. seeing grading/standardization being practically done unlike reading from the books)
- -Some were very useful since they were areas of my specialization while some were just good for awareness but no relevance to my day to day activities
- -On site visits presents real situation on the ground and help to understand and put discussions into proper perspective
- -It was very good

#### **Technical Presentations:**

### Which of the Technical Presentations by Government officials was least helpful?

- -ARS-DC
- -None
- -ARC-DC
- -All presentations were helpful
- -no response
- -n/a
- -none all were good
- -FSIS as I had prior knowledge or rather I was pretty current in the subject
- -none
- -ARC tour on the bus-the brief on overall ARS activities was sufficient
- -the sophisticated electronically controlled loading of ships at Houston Port
- -None all good
- -ARC -DC

# Which presentation(s) provided the most utility for your work situations? Please list by name, but not more than 5. List in order of importance, starting with the one as the most important.

- -1) technical service division, KS; 2)AIB, KS; 3) Houston FGIS; 4)ARS, KSU; 5) USDA/FGIS
- -1)grain inspection procedure GIPSA; 2)Phtosanitary APHIS; 3)Research aspects ARC and APHIS
- -FGIS-Houston; 2) FGIS-Technical Services Division; 3) AIB; 4) Kansas State University (food processing dept.); 5) Grain Research Center
- -1) APHIS; 2) GIPSA; 3) USDA/Agricultural Research Services Grain Marketing and Production Research Center; 4) Field Office-Houston; 5) Port Warehouse facilities
- -1) AIB; 2) grading grains; 3) pre-shipment inspections; 4) APHIS; 5) ARS
- -1) overview by Patrick Coleman; 2) Houston port tour and discussions with on of the managers; 3) presentations of IGP on grain marketing on 8/21/2000; 4) presentations at the AIB; 5) presentations at Houston Field Office

- -1) GIPSA-sampling and inspection procedures; 2) APHIS-Phtosanitary issues; 3) USDA/Agricultural Research Service Grain Marketing & Production; 4) Kansas State University-International Grains Program; 5) AIB; 6) GIPSA/ Technical Services Division
- -1) GIPSA/Technical Service Division; 2) AIB; 3) sampling and inspection procedures; 4) APHIS; 5) Kansas International Grain Program
- -1) overview of agencies in USDA "African Growth and Opportunity Act; 2) site visits to KS & TX; 3) Sampling and Inspection procedures of GIPSA; 4) FGIS
- -1) APHIS-pest identification; 2)APHIS-pest risk analysis; 3) GIPSA-grading of wheat and rice; 4)AIB; 5) port warehouse facilities
- -1) GIPSA sampling and inspection procedures; 2) FSIS; 3) AIB; 4) GIPSA/Technical Services Division; 5) USDA/ARS Grain Marketing
- -1) Houston Port

**Process Sessions:** (Andualem)

Were these sessions helpful in considering how to use information acquired during the study tour?

Orientation: Yes 12 No Consensus: Yes 12 No

**Re-entry** 

Strategies: Yes 12 No

#### If helpful, please explain how, and if not, please indicate why not.

- -The orientation laid the foundation on the expectations; the re-entry focused on issues to harmonize
- -Provided a good background on the objective of the study tour and orientation of participation to their expectation; There was enough time for discussing and synthesis directed by expert facilitation
- -It gave a focus on how we had to approved issues for a govt. focus on issues common to the participants
- -Orientation grave the overview and prepared the team to the mission; consensus prepared the group for harmonization negotiations; re-entry strategy produce work plans and made a format for the report
- -They were helpful to harmonize goals and lay out the way forward
- -The activities allow for compromise and familiarization of one another officially
- -Simulating creativity inspiring
- -Assisted in focusing on key issues
- -The sessions exposed me to move to understanding USA grain standards and their respective approval procedure
- -Gave a better understanding of the process
- -Very participatory
- -In relating issues of common concern within the EAC region and understanding of USA systems
- -No response

What is your overall assessment of the 2-week study tour?

**Excellent** 

Good 11

Fair

**Poor** 

No Response 1

#### We welcome your suggestions for future U.S. study tours.

- -Grain analysis/inspections at TSD; industry training at AIB; seed production and trade in U.S
- -To include other export crops like horticulture crops
- -Elaborate operation (inspection) such as Houston FGIS and at Grain Research Center in Kansas and FGIS, Technical Service Division in Kansas would be good and acceptable with improvements
- -More time should be given to the practical aspects of the tour; practice creates a long lasting import
- -These would be quite useful for technical staff to spend time in the research centers as a method of technical training
- -If possible they should include participants from very specific operations in order to understand issues at par
- -Keep up-the only thing that may need attention is facilitating visa procedures to enter the U.S.
- -The program/study tour is too intensive with little time between travels
- -Please proved information on the "project" to the Ministry of Commerce so that they can appreciate the fact that you are enhancing Tanzania's trade with the USA
- -more practical oriented
- -General introduction for all the group but discipline specific visits to areas of enhancing work performance
- -To identify personnel best suited to appreciate the study tour from each of the country
- -No response

# Once you've returned home, what training sessions (topics) would facilitate your work in country?

- -Seed traders quality control/SPS and U.S. trade opportunities; grading and pricing of grains in the use for stakeholders
- -Inspection procedures; Phtosanitary aspects; organizational aspects
- -Assistance in sensitization to key stakeholders would be welcome help with on expert from the U.S.; organized talks for the technical staff in Kenya on the areas of inspection, grains is acceptable
- -1) Phtosanitary and sanitary issues; 2) analysis of tests and results; 3) sampling and inspection procedures; 4) the test fro the GMO
- -AIB procedures; wheat quality determination
- -The stakeholders session would assist me and others to understand the standards and harmonization issues
- -The five mention above
- -Inspection, sampling procedures of grains; updating of irrational standards on grains and grain products (both product and test methods standards)
- -1) the inspection and sampling procedures provided by GIPSA; 2) creating awareness to Tanzania business community on the African Growth & Opportunity Act

- -Importing agricultural commodities from the USA to EA (standards requirements and the procedure)
- -Training in development in memorandums of understanding to ensure more effective collaboration with stakeholder institutions
- -Sensitization seminars and capacity building
- -No response

### Which training sessions (topics) should be organized on a regional basis?

- -Grading and inspections; sampling and analysis procedures
- -Harmonization of procedures and standards
- -Capacity building; training; inspection issuing fictions
- -SPS; sampling and inspection; grading of grain
- -Training of trainers in technical areas
- -The need to understand why to harmonization of standards to stakeholders
- -Harmonizing standards particularly implementation; improving transport infrastructure and efficiency
- -Sampling and inspection procedures (including equipment used)
- -Sampling and inspection for grains in accordance to standards
- -Standardization process in the USA; Importing goods from the USA to EA
- -Phytosanitary and sanitary training sessions; standards training sessions
- -Sensitization seminars and capacity building
- -No response